

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for searching a database in an information retrieval system according to user-identified geographical location information using a mobile communications device operating on a wireless network, comprising the steps of:
 - creating a database for storing at least geographical location information for each of a plurality of items of interest;
 - receiving geographical location information corresponding to a location of a user's mobile communications device;
 - receiving a search request from the user; [, and]
 - detecting whether the request is to search the database for items of interest located in a vicinity of the geographical location of the user's mobile communications device or of a different geographical location identified by the user, wherein information regarding the different geographical location is [preconfigured] pre-configured by the user at a prior time, by orally creating a specified name using the mobile communication device and associating the specified name with the different geographical location while the user is in the different geographical location; and
 - generating a search query for items of interest only within a radial distance of the geographical location identified by the user.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of searching a database according to claim 1, wherein the geographical location of the user's mobile communications device corresponds to the present location of the user's mobile communications device.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of searching a database according to claim 2, wherein the geographical location information of the user's mobile communications device is determined by triangulation of control signal strength received at cell towers surrounding the user's communication device.

4. (Previously Presented) The method for searching a database according to claim 2, wherein the geographical location information of the user's mobile communications device is determined by a GPS receiver within the user's communication device.

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5. (Original) The method for searching a database according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of calculating a radial distance surrounding the specified geographical location and searching for items of interest at geographical locations within the calculated radial distance.

6. (Previously Presented) The method for searching a database according to claim 1, wherein the different geographical location specified by the user is a previous location of the user's mobile communications device.

7. (Previously Presented) The method for searching a database according to claim 1, wherein the different geographical location specified by the user is a location known to the system and is then personalized by the user for a future search as a personalized landmark for a radial search.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for searching a database according to claim 6, wherein orally creating the specified name further [comprising] comprises the steps of:

receiving a name specified by the user for the specified geographical location;
storing the specified name and corresponding geographical location information as an entry in a locations table; and

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upon receiving a request to search for items of interest in the vicinity of a geographical location specified by name,

(i) searching the locations table for the specified name, and
(ii) providing the geographical location information corresponding to the specified name in a search query.

9. (Original) The method for searching a database according to claim 8, further comprising the step of digitally encoding an audio speech signal of the specified name, wherein the digitally encoded signal identifies a specific location and is stored in the locations table.

10. (Original) The method for searching a database according to claim 8, wherein the user pre-configures the locations table with geographical locations at which the user intends to search.

11. (Original) The method for searching a database according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

requesting a user identification before storing a specified name and corresponding location information in the locations table; and
requesting a user identification before searching the locations table,
wherein the specified names and corresponding locations are stored according to the user identification.

12. (Currently Amended) An information retrieval system for identifying items of interest located within a vicinity of a user-specified geographical location, comprising:

- (a) a database records unit for storing a plurality of information about a plurality of items of interest, including a name of each item of interest search, criteria associated with each item of interest, and a corresponding geographical location for each item of interest[, and a corresponding geographical location for each item of interest];
- (b) a geographic locations processor for receiving a user-defined geographical location for searching the database records unit, said user-defined geographical

location being pre-configured by the user at a prior time, by orally creating a specified name using a mobile communication device and associating the specified name with a geographical location while the user is in the geographical location; and

(c) a database index for generating a search query including the user-defined geographical location.

13. (Previously Presented) The information retrieval system according to claim 12, further comprising a question generator table for prompting a user to provide a user-defined geographical location for searching the database records unit.

14. (Original) The information retrieval system according to claim 13, wherein the question generator table provides digitized audio speech signals as prompts to a user's mobile communications device.

15. (Original) The information retrieval system according to claim 14, wherein the information retrieval system digitally encodes responses to the prompts to create the search query in the database index.

16. (Previously Presented) The information retrieval system according to claim 12, wherein the geographic locations processor processes user-defined location information provided

by a user's mobile communications device, upon receiving an indication from the user, and provides location information to a database index for generating a search query.

17. (Previously Presented) The information retrieval system according to claim 16, further comprising:

a geographic locations name encoder for receiving and encoding user-defined geographic location names corresponding to geographical location information provided by a user's mobile communications device; and

a geographic location database for storing encoded user-defined geographical location names and corresponding geographical location information provided by users for future database searches.

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18-23 (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A method for performing a search on an information retrieval system to identify items of interest in a vicinity of a user-defined geographical location, comprising the steps of:

(a) configuring a table of names of geographical locations defined by a user and geographical locations corresponding to the names, each name being defined at a prior time, by orally creating the name using the mobile communication device and associating the name with the geographical location while the user is in the geographical location;

- (b) detecting a request by the user to search for items of interest in a vicinity of a location stored in the table;
- (c) receiving a name of a geographical location;
- (d) searching the table for the named geographical location and the corresponding location information; and
- (e) generating a search query for items of interest in the vicinity of the named geographical location.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for searching an information retrieval system for items of interest in a vicinity of a user-specified location, comprising the steps of:

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- (a) detecting a request by a user to search for items of interest in a vicinity of a user-specified location;
- (b) determining whether the user requests to search according to the user's present location or a location stored in a table of locations pre-configured by the user at a prior time, by orally creating a specified name using the mobile communication device and associating the specified name with a geographical location while the user is in the geographical location; and
 - (i) if the user request is to search according to the present location, requesting location information from a network carrier for the user's mobile communications device, and

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- (ii) if the user request is to search according to geographical location information provided in the pre-configured table of locations, requesting location information from the pre-configured table of locations; and
- (c) generating a search query using the provided geographical location information.

26. (New) The method for performing a search according to claim 24, wherein each geographical location is a previous location of a user's mobile communication device.

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27. (New) The method for searching an information retrieval system according to claim 25, wherein the geographical location is a previous location of a user's mobile communication device.
